



MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

ANDY RODGERS

Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 508-3670

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www.rrwatershed.org

January 21, 2022

SENT VIA: EMAIL

Ms. Linda Phoen
Caltrans District 4 Clean California
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: Support for the Town of Windsor’s Clean California Local Grant Program Application – 101 Underpass and Old Redwood Highway Corridor Improvements Project

Dear Ms. Phoen:

Serving as Executive Director for the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA), I’m writing to express my support of the application submitted by the Town of Windsor for the 101 Underpass and Old Redwood Highway Corridor Improvements Project. The project proposed by the Town involves litter abatement, beautification through three separate public art installations, and clean up and maintenance of the riparian areas along Windsor Creek and East Windsor Creek.

The RRWA is a coalition of ten public agencies in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties that have come together to coordinate regional programs in the Russian River watershed for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement.

The Russian River watershed consists of over 150 creeks that provide water supply, wildlife habitat, flood capacity, and recreation. Unfortunately, trash and debris accumulation in local waterways impair water quality, wildlife habitat, and, at times, recreation and flood capacity. Additionally, overgrown foliage on creek and riverbanks act as a “catch-all” for accumulation of blowing trash. The proposed project will trim overgrown bushes, plants and trees to remove the “catch-all” factor, while involving members of the community to clean up litter in the watershed area, as well as the 101/Old Redwood Highway underpass vicinity.

The Town of Windsor has planned two separate community clean-up events – Earth Day in April and Creek Week in September. The Russian River Watershed Association sponsors multiple watershed clean up opportunities throughout the year, including Creek Week, the fourth week in September. A Clean California grant award would help fund the equipment and supplies necessary to ensure the preservation and protection of our watershed resources, while beautifying the Town of Windsor, thereby creating a cleaner and more pleasant experience for pedestrians and motorists alike.

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The Town of Windsor's Clean California Project is multi-faceted: it will reduce pollution; preserve and protect a vital watershed; beautify through public art; and most importantly, inspire individual involvement for the betterment of the community. Residents, visitors, and the environment will greatly benefit from this important project. I hope you will consider a funding award to ensure the realization of this worthy project.

Thank you in advance for considering grant funding to this important project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at cleanwater@rrwatershed.org or 707 508 3670.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a long horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Andy Rodgers, Executive Director
Russian River Watershed Association